



## **Endangered Species Consultation for the Indiana bat**

The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is a Federally listed endangered species, and its range includes all of Ohio, although known populations are unevenly distributed. The Indiana bat is the listed species that most frequently requires consultation between federal agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ohio. If the Indiana bat and/or suitable bat habitat occur on the project site, avoidance and minimization measures to protect the bat and its habitat may be necessary.

### **Life History and Habitat**

Since first listed as endangered in 1967, the Indiana bat population has declined by nearly 60%. Several factors have contributed to the decline of the bat including the loss and degradation of suitable hibernacula, human disturbance during hibernation, pesticides, and the loss and degradation of forested habitat, particularly stands of large, mature trees. Fragmentation of forest habitat may also contribute to declines. Summer habitat requirements for the species are not well defined but the following are considered important:

1. Dead or live trees and snags with peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, or cavities, which may be used as maternity roost areas.
2. Live trees (such as shagbark hickory and oaks) which have exfoliating bark.
3. Stream corridors, riparian areas, and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

### **General Measures to Protect the Bat**

1. Protection/preservation of trees and associated habitats exhibiting any of the characteristics listed above.
2. In some cases, especially in areas where significant quantity/quality of bat habitat is present and proposed to be impacted or in areas where bats are known to occur, mist net or other surveys may be warranted to determine if bats are present onsite.
3. In some cases, where habitat is of low quality/quantity, seasonal cutting may be sufficient to avoid impacts to the bat. **It should not be assumed that seasonal cutting alone is always sufficient to avoid and minimize impacts to the Indiana bat.** If suitable habitat exists and will be impacted by implementation of a Federal project, consultation with this office must be initiated.

**Due to the limited time frame when bat surveys may be completed (June-August), it is strongly recommended that the applicant contact the Service as early as possible in the project planning process to determine if surveys or additional avoidance and/or minimization measures will be necessary and to avoid project delays.**

If you have additional questions, you may contact the Service:

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